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10TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

January 27, 2011

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The Hon. John Morton
Assistant Secretary
Immigration and Customs Enforcement
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington DC 20528

Dear Mr. Morton:

I write in response to a tragic -- and preventable -- incident that occurred in northern Virginia recently. As you may know, Salvador Portillo-Saravia, an MS-13 gang member, was arrested in Loudoun County for public intoxication but was released when he was not identified as an illegal alien in the Secure Communities database. Four weeks later, Portillo-Saravia allegedly sexually assaulted an 8-year-old girl in Fairfax and is now at large. This terrible crime could have been prevented because he never should have been released.

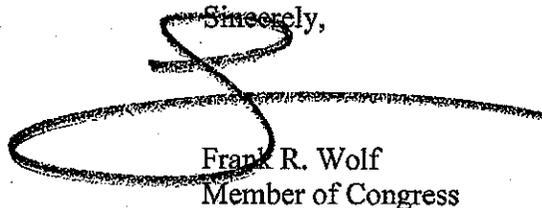
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) must work closely with state and local law enforcement to ensure that this never happens again. ICE should immediately remind all law enforcement partners about the current limitations of the Secure Communities database on illegal aliens detained before 2005. This reminder will ensure that state and local law enforcement officers pursue additional inquiries about immigration status beyond Secure Communities before release. This notification should be reissued on a regular basis.

Additionally, I urge you to review the Secure Communities program and promptly provide a report to the Congress on how the program could be improved and expanded to address pre-2005 detentions. I believe that the program is an important resource for our state and local law enforcement and that ICE should continue to improve the information available to localities.

I look forward to your response. Please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff member, Thomas Culligan, at 202-225-5136 if I can be of assistance.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,



Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress